

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A conjugated fatty acid ester comprising a conjugated fatty acid with conjugated double bonds within the molecule, wherein the conjugated fatty acid forms an ester bond with glycerol to form a conjugated fatty acid glyceride ~~which contains a predominate proportion of a triglyceride in which the content of the conjugated fatty acid is above 20 weight %.~~

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) A composition for oral administration to improve lipid metabolism, to prevent or treat obesity, or to prevent or therapeutically treat hyperlipidemia, said oral composition comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of a conjugated fatty acid glyceride comprising a conjugated fatty acid with conjugated double bonds within the molecule, ~~wherein said conjugated fatty acid glyceride contains a predominate proportion of a triglyceride to suppress the bitterness and/or astringency of the conjugated fatty acid[[],] and pharmaceutically acceptable ingredients, wherein the content of the conjugated fatty acid in said conjugated fatty acid glyceride is above 20 weight %.~~

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) A method of improving lipid metabolism, treating or preventing obesity, or for the prophylaxis and/or therapeutic treatment of hyperlipidemia in an animal in which it is desired to improve the lipid metabolism, treat or prevent obesity, or prevent and/or therapeutically treat hyperlipidemia, which comprises orally administering to the animal a pharmaceutically effective amount of a conjugated fatty acid ester comprising a conjugated fatty acid with conjugated double bonds within the molecule, wherein the conjugated fatty acid within the molecule forms an ester bond with glycerol to form a conjugated fatty acid glyceride ~~which contains a predominate proportion of a triglyceride, in which the content of the conjugated fatty acid is above 20 weight.~~

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein the conjugated fatty acid is conjugated linoleic acid.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) A milk-based drink for improving lipid metabolism, comprising a milk and a conjugated fatty acid glyceride mixed with said milk, said conjugated fatty acid glyceride comprising a conjugated fatty acid with conjugated double bonds within the molecule, wherein ~~said conjugated fatty acid glyceride contains a predominate proportion of a triglyceride to suppress the bitterness and/or astringency of the~~

content of the conjugated fatty acid in said conjugated fatty acid glyceride is above 20 weight %.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A soybean milk for improving lipid metabolism, comprising a soybean milk and a conjugated fatty acid glyceride mixed with said soybean milk, said conjugated fatty acid glyceride comprising a conjugated fatty acid with conjugated double bonds within the molecule, wherein ~~said conjugated fatty acid glyceride contains a predominate proportion of a triglyceride to suppress the bitterness and/or astringency of the~~ content of the conjugated fatty acid in said conjugated fatty acid glyceride is above 20 weight %.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) A dietary or nutritional supplement in the form of a capsule for improving lipid metabolism, comprising a capsule molded with a capsule base and a conjugated fatty acid glyceride encapsulated with the capsule, said conjugated fatty acid glyceride comprising a conjugated fatty acid with conjugated double bonds within the molecule, wherein ~~the content of the conjugated fatty acid in said conjugated fatty acid glyceride contains a predominate proportion of a triglyceride is above 20 weight %.~~

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A dietary or nutritional supplement in the form of a tablet for improving lipid metabolism,

comprising a tablet base and a conjugated fatty acid glyceride, said conjugated fatty acid glyceride comprising a conjugated fatty acid with conjugated double bonds within the molecule, wherein the content of the conjugated fatty acid in said conjugated fatty acid glyceride contains a predominate proportion of a triglyceride is above 20 weight %.

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) The conjugated fatty acid ester according to claim 1, wherein said conjugated fatty acid is a conjugated linoleic acid.

Claim 10. (Canceled)

Claim 11. (Canceled)

Claim 12. (Canceled)

Claim 13. (Previously Presented) The conjugated fatty acid ester according to claim 1, wherein the conjugated fatty acid with conjugate double bonds is 9,11-octadecadienoic acid.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) The conjugated fatty acid ester according to claim 1, wherein the conjugated fatty acid with conjugated double bonds is 10,12-octadecadienoic acid.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein the method is for improving lipid metabolism.

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein the method is for treating or preventing obesity.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein the method is for preventing or treating hyperlipidemia.